

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 01214 231808 Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AGR-20

HEW-08 INT-08 PC-04 RSR-01 /194 W

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R 231555 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6603

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMMBASSY DAKAR 814

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY FT LAMY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: CONVERSATION ON SAHELIAN DROUGHT WITH VOLTAN PRIME
MINISTER

USEC FOR WENDT; PARIS FOR RAICHT; ROME FOR FODAG; AID FOR
AFR/ CWR/ SDE

1. DCM BULLEN AND I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER
GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO THIS MORNING TO OBTAIN MISE AU POINT
CONCERNING SAHEL DROUGHT PROBLEM PRIOR MY DEPARTURE FOR
ONCHOCERCIAIS AND SAHEL MEETINGS PARIS AND GENEVA.
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DELIVERED COPY PRESIDENT NIXON' S LETTER TO UN SYG
CONCERNING WILLIAMS NOMINATION.

2. PRIME MINISTER REITERATED WHAT WE HAD ALREADY
LEARNED CONCERNING HIS DECISION DECLARE ENTIRE COUNTRY
DISASTER AREA. HE ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION IN
SERIOUS NEED WITH GRAIN PRICES IN RELATIVELY WELL
SUPPLIED SOUTHERN MARKETS NOW BETWEEN 6,000 AND 7,000
FRANCS COMPARED WITH 3500 LAST MAY AND 2500 OFFICIAL
SELLING PRICE. AS FOR NORTH, HE SAID ON HIS RECENT
INSPECTION VISIT MANY FARMERS TOLD HIM THAT NOT ONE GRAIN
OF FOOD HAD TOUCHED THEIR STOMACHS FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.
MANY VILLAGERS CONSEQUENTLY TAKING COTTON SEED INTENDED
FOR ANIMALS AND POUNDING THE KERNELS INTO FLOUR FOR
EATING.

3. AS TO PROSPECT FOR NEXT YEAR' S HARVEST, HE ECHOED
CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT DIORI TO
AMBASSADOR MCCLELLAND TEN DAYS AGO. HE SAID THAT
THROUGHOUT MUCH OF NORTHERN UPPER VOLTA THE SCATTERED EARLY
RAINS HAD SERVED ONLY TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO PLANT AND NOW
THOSE PLANTINGS WERE DRYING UP THUS NECESSITATING SECOND
PLANTING OF ALREADY SCARCE SEED SUPPLIES. HE SAID HE WOULD
HAVE TO SOUND CRY OF ALARM FOR NEXT YEAR, URGING ALL POSSIBLE
INPUT FROM ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FOOD GRAIN TO BE STORED IN
ANTICIPATION DIRE FUTURE.

4. I ASKED PM HIS VIEWS ON POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT
AWAY FROM ZONES OF COUNTRY WHERE NO ASSURANCE APPARENTLY
EXISTS OF SURVIVAL IN YEARS TO COME, SHORT OF MASSIVE
FOREIGN AND LOCAL AID EFFORTS AND UNANTICIPATED
BENEFICENT RAINFALL. HE SAID SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS
TOO SEVERE TO UPROOT POPULATIONS IN THE NORTH. PEOPLE
WOULD NOT LEAVE THEIR FETISHES, SACRED PLACES, AND
ANCESTORS' GRAVES. HE BELIEVED ONLY ANSWER WOULD BE
REFORESTATION, WATER DEVELOPMENT (BOTH WELLS AND DAMS),
AND DIVERSION OF WATER FROM NIGER AND VOLTA RIVER SYSTEM .

5. I EXPLAINED PROPOSED BELGIAN PARACHUTE DROP OF
US SORGHUM (OUAGADOUGOU 1202). PRIME MINISTER ASSURED
US HIS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW CRITICAL
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PAGE 03 OUAGAD 01214 231808 Z

NEED PROVIDE FOOD AT PLANTING TIME LEST SEED STOCKS BE
EATEN.

6. WE RAISED QUESTION OF FUTURE OF GRAIN STABILIZATION
PROGRAM IN FACE OF REPORTS FROM NATIONAL DROUGHT COMMITTEE
THAT GOUV WOULD WISH DISTRIBUTE MUCH OR ALL OF STABILIZATION
GRAIN ON GRATIS BASIS (OUAGADOUGBU 1114, STATE 120322,

NIAMEY 1907). PRIME MINISTER SAID HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED FREE DISTRIBUTION OF SALE GRAIN. ECHOING SEVERAL ARGUMENTS IN NIAMEY REFTEL, HE SAID FRE DISTRIBUTION MORALLY WRONG AND ADMINISTRATIVELY VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT FAIRLY. I SAID WE PLANNED A THOROUGH DISCUSSION THIS QUESTION NEXT WEEK DURING RDO NIAMEY VISIT OUAGADOUGOU, BY WHICH TIME FINANCE MINISTER GARANGO WOULD BE RETURNED FROM EUROPE.

7. WE WERE INTERRUPTED DURING CONVERSATION BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA' S TELEPHONING FROM PARIS TO ASK STATUS OF CURRENT RELIEF PROGRAM PARTICULARLY FOOD GRAINS, AND PROSPECTS UPCOMING HARVEST. PRIME MINISTER TOLD PRESIDENT WE WERE WITH HIM AT THAT MOMENT DISCUSSING SAME QUESTIONS. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND SAID MEMBERS HIS PARTY WOULD LOOK FORWARD SEEING ME IN PARIS- GENEVA. PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL GRATITUDE ONGOING US EFFORTS IN SAHEL RELIEF PROGRAM, AND PARTICULARLY US WILLINGNESS ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH PROPO ED MEDIUM AND LONG- TERM ATTACK ON UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DROUGHT.
EASUM

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